

2006 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
WELFARE REFORM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Members

Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela, Chair
Sen. Linda M. Lopez, Vice Chair
Sen. Sue Wilson Beffort
Sen. Clinton D. Harden, Jr.
Rep. Irvin Harrison
Sen. Steven P. Neville

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Rep. Ernest H. Chavez
Rep. Richard P. Cheney
Rep. Kandy Cordova
Sen. Dianna J. Duran

Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell
Rep. Daniel R. Foley
Rep. Miguel P. Garcia*
Rep. Larry A. Larranaga
Sen. John C. Ryan
Rep. Edward C. Sandoval

The Welfare Reform Oversight Committee was created by Section 2-17-1 NMSA 1978 to examine the statutes, constitutional provisions and rules governing welfare reform in New Mexico; monitor and oversee the implementation of the New Mexico Works Act; review issues related to welfare reform, including job training programs and related contracts; oversee cash assistance, child care, transportation and other job-related services and issues that arise because of the devolution of the federal welfare programs to the states; and make recommendations relating to the adoption of rules and legislation, if any are found to be necessary.

The committee is also charged with hearing about implementation of the New Mexico Works Act from the secretaries of human services; labor; children, youth and families; public education; and health.

Work Plan

In the 2006 interim, the committee has agreed to focus on the issues recommended by the Legislative Council: federal statutory changes affecting delivery of services in New Mexico; evaluation and oversight of agencies, including the Office of Workforce Training and Development; ensuring compliance with federal rules; and examining whether poverty initiatives are getting people into adequate, sustainable work.

The committee will begin in July by studying, reviewing and discussing applications of the federal statutory changes that will make the state more vulnerable to fines from the federal government because of high work activity requirements for clients in the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. It will examine ways in which state agencies

plan to meet federal work requirements despite changes in the law and will examine barriers to work and levels of income the Human Services Department may disregard. On the second morning of the July meeting, the committee will convene at Belen at the one-stop shop used by TANF recipients and clients of various state and federal programs.

In August, the committee will hear a summary of a performance audit of the Human Services Department as well as updates on the operation of the Central New Mexico Regional Workforce and TANF programs. Questions about child care and child support programs and funding will be the focus of the September committee meeting as it considers various options for improving sustainable support for children whose parents are returning to the workforce. In October, the committee will: examine effective and successful work and training programs and on-the-job education; hear special concerns regarding the homeless population; and receive an update on financial support for students in community colleges. In November, the committee will evaluate changes made in the programs to support people in moving from unemployment to gainful employment. It will continue its oversight functions in hearing from appropriate departments on performance measures, hear the Legislative Finance Committee audit update and make its endorsements for legislation in the next session.

2006 APPROVED MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 1-day	Santa Fe
July 20-21	Belen
August 10-11	Santa Fe
September 14-15	Santa Fe
October 10-11	Santa Fe
November 27-28	Santa Fe

*The Legislative Council approved appointment of Representative Miguel Garcia as an advisory member on June 28, 2006.